vi) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided the RRBs access to profitable avenues for investment of their non-SLR surplus funds in listed and other schemes of Unit Trust of India (UTI), fixed deposits in profit making term lending financial institutions like the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Credit Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI), in bonds of nationalised banks and profit earning public sector institutions and in non convertible debentures or reputed blue-chip companies. Besides, the RRBs have been permitted by the RBI to deploy a part of their surplus non-SLR funds in the credit portfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk sharing participation certificates to be issued by the latter.

vii) Prudential accounting norms of income recognition and asset classification has been made applicable to RRBs in 1995-96. Provisioning norms would be made applicable in a phased manner from 1996-97.

viii) With effect from 26.8.1996, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)has deregulated the interest rates that can be charged to the ultimate borrowers by the RRBs.

[English]

Export of Textiles

3644. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for export of textiles during the last three years alongwith the target achieved;

(b) the revenue earned in terms of foreign exchange during the above period, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of textiles during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The targets fixed for the exports of textiles (including Handicrafts, Jute and Coir) during the last three years and the achievements in terms of foreign exchange earnings have been as follows :

In US Million Dollars

Year	Target	Achievement
1993-94	7,400	7,973.91
1994-95	9,000	9,980.15
1995-96	10,500	10,685.07

(c) In order to step up the exports of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of new materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Government have also supported a combined effort of the Textile Export Promotion Councils to open One Man Export Promotion Offices in Sao Paulo (Brazil), Osaka (Japan), Durban (South Africa) and Melbourne (Australia) in order to step up our textile exports to these countries/regions.

Services Charges for Operating Bank Accounts

3645. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of latest guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India in regard to the minimum amount required for operating saving/current bank Accounts in various nationalised banks including foreign banks;

(b) whether the Government are aware that foreign banks including Standard Chartered have been charging service charges ranging from Rs. 100/- to 200/- per month from those saving bank account holders whose balance falls short of Rupees ten thousands; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not prescribed any minimum amount required to operate savings/current accounts. However, Indian Banks' Association (IBA) have advised its member banks that each bank should determine the minimum balance as consider appropriate. Accordingly, the minimum balance in savings/current acount is prescribed by individual banks taking into account cost of servicng such accounts, etc. Foreign banks' tariffs on all the services are high compared to public sector and other Indian banks. IBA has reported that foreign banks stipulate high minimum balances also, for accounts to be opened and maintained with them. Customers of foreign banks patronise such banks with the knowledge of these conditions.